

Claims:

1. A flexible foldable keyboard apparatus configured to communicate with a mobile telephone, comprising
- 5 a key defining flexible plane,
- an interface device configured to connect with the electrical connectors of a mobile telephone, and
- telephone support means; wherein
- said telephone support means is arranged to unfold from said
- 10 flexible plane to present a telephone supporting configuration for a mobile telephone and, after removing a secured mobile telephone,
- said telephone support means is arranged to fold onto said key defining plane into a storage configuration, to allow said key defining plane to be wrapped around said folded telephone support means, and
- 15 said telephone support means is configured to allow an electrical connection between the electrical connectors of a mobile telephone and said interface device only when said mobile telephone is located in a correct orientation.
- 20 2. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said telephone support means is configured to guide a mobile telephone into a correct orientation.
3. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said key
- 25 defining flexible plane includes a plurality of textile fabric layers.

4. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said key defining flexible plane includes conductive membrane films.

5 5. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said telephone support means includes a front portion and a rear portion connected by a hinge, and said telephone support means is configured to receive a mobile telephone between said front portion and said rear portion.

10 6. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said telephone support means includes a base portion and an extension portion arranged in combination with said front portion and said rear portion to produce a substantially quadrilateral configuration.

15 7. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said base portion is a sub-assembly arranged to support a circuit board.

8. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said flexible foldable keyboard apparatus is configured to communicate with a
20 mobile telephone having advanced features, including features to assist with the generation of text documents and electronic communications.

9. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said keyboard apparatus includes keys to assist menu navigation.

10. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said telephone support means is less thick than a mobile telephone when said telephone support means is placed in its folded configuration.

5 11. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a mobile telephone may be received within said telephone support means only when said telephone support means is in its fully unfolded configuration.

10 12. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, including an independent power supply.

13. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said power supply receives recharging current from an external charging source.

15 14. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said recharging current is also used to recharge a mobile telephone device.

15 15. A keyboard apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said keyboard apparatus comprises a storage pocket.

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16. A method of communicating text data to a mobile telephone using a flexible foldable keyboard, comprising the steps of:

unfolding a telephone support means from a flexible plane so as to present a telephone supporting configuration for a mobile telephone,

25 locating said telephone within said unfolded telephone support

means in a correct orientation,

manually operating keys defined within said flexible plane to input data,

removing said telephone from said unfolded support means,

5 folding said support means onto said key defining plane, and

wrapping said key defining plane around said folded telephone support means.